

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring the software of a headless ~~USB-compliant server~~ computer of a computer network, comprising the steps of:

coupling a communications link between the headless ~~server~~ computer and a configuration computer, the communications link coupled at a USB port of each of the headless ~~server~~ computer and the configuration computer, wherein the headless computer comprises a computer that does not include a monitor, keyboard, mouse, and video card;

establishing data communication between the headless ~~server~~ computer and the configuration computer through the communications link coupled between ~~and~~ the USB ports of the headless ~~server~~ computer and configuration computer; and

communicating data between the headless ~~server~~ computer and the configuration computer to configure the software of the headless ~~server~~ computer.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless ~~USB-compliant server~~ computer of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing data communication between the headless ~~server~~ computer and the configuration computer comprises the steps of,

transmitting from the configuration computer to the headless ~~server~~ computer a query concerning the identity of the headless ~~server~~ computer; and

receiving from the headless ~~server~~ computer data indicative of the identity of the headless ~~server~~ computer.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless ~~USB-compliant-server~~ computer of claim 2, further comprising the step of determining at the configuration computer whether the headless ~~server~~ computer is a USB-compliant device.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless ~~USB-compliant-server~~ computer of claim 3, further comprising the step of performing a configuration routine at the configuration computer on the basis of the identity of the headless ~~server~~ computer to permit the configuration computer to communicate with the headless ~~server~~ computer if the headless ~~server~~ computer is determined to be USB-compliant.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless ~~USB-compliant-server~~ computer of claim 4, further comprising the step of initiating configuration application software at the configuration computer.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless ~~USB-compliant-server~~ computer of claim 5, further comprising the steps of communicating between the configuration computer and the headless ~~server~~ computer to cause the headless ~~server~~ computer to initiate configuration application software at the configuration computer to permit data communication between the configuration computer and the headless ~~server~~ computer.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless ~~USB-compliant server~~ computer of claim 1, wherein the configuration computer is a portable computer.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless ~~USB-compliant server~~ computer of claim 1, wherein the configuration computer is a palmtop computer.

9-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring the software of a headless ~~server~~ computer, the headless ~~server~~ computer having the ability to transmit data according to a data transmission protocol that accommodates hot-swapping of peripherals and automatic identification of peripherals capability, comprising:

coupling a communications link between the headless ~~server~~ computer and a configuration computer, the communications link coupled at a port of each of the headless ~~server~~ computer and the configuration computer, the port having the capability of transmitting data according to the data transmission protocol, wherein the headless computer comprises a computer that does not include a monitor, keyboard, mouse, and video card;

establishing data communication between the headless ~~server~~ computer and the configuration computer through communications link and the ports of the headless ~~server~~ computer and the configuration computer; and

communicating data between the headless ~~server~~ computer and the configuration computer to configure the software of the headless ~~server~~ computer.

22. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of the headless ~~server~~ computer of claim 21, wherein the step of establishing data communication between the headless ~~server~~ computer and the configuration computer comprises the steps of:

transmitting data from the configuration computer to the headless ~~server~~ computer a query concerning the identity of the headless ~~server~~ computer; and

receiving from the headless ~~server~~ computer data indicative of the identity of the headless ~~server~~ computer.

23. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of the headless ~~server~~ computer of claim 22, further comprising the step of determining at the configuration computer whether the headless ~~server~~ computer has the ability to transmit data according to the data transmission protocol.

24. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of the headless ~~server~~ computer of claim 22, further comprising the step of performing a configuration routine at the configuration computer on the basis of the identity of the headless ~~server~~ computer to permit the configuration computer to communicate with the headless ~~server~~ computer if the headless ~~server~~ computer is determined to have the ability to transmit data according to the data transmission protocol.

25. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of the headless ~~server~~ computer of claim 24, further comprising the step of initiating configuration application software at the configuration computer.

26. (Currently Amended) The method for configuring the software of the headless ~~server~~ computer of claim 25, further comprising the steps of communicating between the configuration computer and the headless ~~server~~ computer to cause the headless ~~server~~ computer to initiate configuration application software at the configuration computer to permit data communication between the configuration computer and the headless ~~server~~ computer using a graphical user interface.

27. (New) The method for configuring the software of a headless computer of claim 1, wherein the headless computer is a server computer.

28. (New) The method for configuring the software of the headless computer of claim 21, wherein the headless computer is a server computer.